



Docket No.: 4101-0206-0X

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OBLON
SPIVAK
McCLELLAND
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P.C.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/129,238
Applicants: Veronique SARDOY et al.
Filing Date: AUGUST 5, 1998
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A THIN SHEET OF ULTRA-LOW-CARBON
STEEL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF DRAWN PRODUCTS FOR
PACKAGING AND THIN SHEET OBTAINED
Group Art Unit: 1742
Examiner: YEE, D.

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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Reply Brief (in triplicate)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

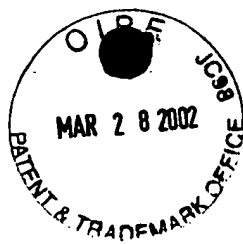
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
VERONIQUE SARDOY ET AL : EXAMINER: YEE, D.
SERIAL NO: 09/129,238 :
FILED: AUGUST 5, 1998 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1742

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A THIN SHEET OF ULTRA-LOW-CARBON STEEL
FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF DRAWN PRODUCTS FOR PACKAGING AND
THIN SHEET OBTAINED

REPLY BRIEF

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SIR:

On page 5 of the Examiner's Answer the Examiner takes the position that the closest prior art example would be Sample No. 3 of EP0556834A2. However, it is Appellants' position that Sample No. 3 differs from the claims in a number of important aspects. Firstly, Sample No. 3 of EP0556834A2 contains 0.007% carbon and 0.009% nitrogen, both of which are outside the ranges of Claim 8 of at most 0.006% carbon and less than 0.006% nitrogen.

Further, the annealing temperature of 670°C of Sample No. 3 of EP0556834A2 is at the upper limit of the range of Claim 8 and the coiling temperature is 10°C under the lower limit of the claim range for the coiling temperature of Claim 8. It is considered that the differences between the present claims and Sample No. 3 of EP0556834A2 are significant in ensuring the

production of a steel sheet having a Lankford coefficient greater than 1.6 as set forth in the present claims.

Therefore, it is submitted that the present claims distinguish over EP0556834A2.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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